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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JOO200187055	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/KR2002/002450	International filing date (day/month/year) 27 DECEMBER 2002 (27.12.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 DECEMBER 2001 (28.12.2001)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC7 A61F 5/058		
Applicant KIM, Kyung-Jin		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 JULY 2003 (18.07.2003)	Date of completion of this report 19 APRIL 2004 (19.04.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	Authorized officer LEE, Sun Kuk Telephone No. 82-42-481-5587 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR2002/002450

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-17, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages 18-21, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1-7, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language English which is

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheet _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed," and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

International application No.

PCT/KR2002/002450

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-7	
	Claims	NONE	
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-7	Y
	Claims	NONE	N
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-7	Y
	Claims	NONE	N

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 4,441,489 A

D2: FR 2,616,061 A1

Document D1 discloses an orthopaedic splint for a finger comprising a first portion and a second portion respectively for locating proximally and distally a proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joint.

Document D2 discloses a splint comprising a leg piece, a thigh piece and an articulated linkage assembly joining these pieces together.

Novelty (N):

The claimed invention relates to a combined splint and cast for immobilizing an injured body part due to fracture, ligament rupture, dislocation, or the like. More specifically, this combined splint and cast comprises a hand fixing member, a connecting member and an elbow fixing member, wherein the hand fixing member, the connecting member and the elbow fixing member are used separately or cooperatively by being fastened with bolts.

Documents D1 and D2, cited in the International Search Report, are defining the general state of the prior art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

Thus, the subject matter of claim 1 is considered to be novel. The subject matter of dependent claims 2 to 7 is also novel.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR2002/002450

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of:

Inventive Step (IS):

The solution according to the invention is to provide a combined splint and cast for fixing fractured bones which can fast and easily fix fractured bones by injection molding a hand fixing member, a connecting member and an elbow fixing member of various sizes according to body measurements and by using the respective members individually or cooperatively according to the use.

Neither of documents D1 and D2 show a combined splint and cast according to the invention claimed in claims 1-7. Accordingly, it is not considered to be obvious to a person skilled in the art to apply the knowledge of these documents, taken individually or in combination, for creating a combined splint and cast according to the invention claimed in claims 1-7. Therefore, the invention claimed in claims 1-7 is considered to involve an inventive step.

Industrial Applicability (IA):

The invention is considered to be industrially applicable.